

SENATE BILL 3129

By Woodson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 69,  
Chapter 9, relative to emergency vessels.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated Title 69, Chapter 9, Part 2, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated section:

Section 69-9-2\_\_.

(a) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires, "emergency vessel" means any vessel equipped with red or blue flashing lights that is operated by persons commissioned as law enforcement officers pursuant to § 69-9-220(a). "Emergency vessel" also includes any rescue vessel or emergency response vessel equipped with red or blue flashing lights that is owned and operated by any federal, state, county or municipal entity. Any person operating a vessel on the waters shall stop such vessel upon a signal of any emergency vessel and obey any other reasonable signal or direction given in directing the movement of traffic on the waters of Tennessee.

(b) Any person operating a vessel upon the waters of the state shall immediately stop or position the vessel in such a manner as to keep out of the way of any emergency vessel when such emergency vessel gives an audible signal by siren or gives a visible signal by having its emergency flashing lights displayed.

(c) When approaching or passing an emergency vessel with its emergency flashing lights activated, an operator of a vessel shall use due caution

to safely move the vessel away from the emergency vessel and maintain a slow no-wake speed within one hundred fifty feet (150') of the emergency vessel.

(d) A violation of this section is a Class B misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500), or imprisonment not longer than thirty (30) days, or both.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2010, the public welfare requiring it.